

President's Message  
31 December 2011

USU Colleagues,

I hope everyone enjoyed a happy holiday season with family and friends. This is my last message for calendar year 2011, and I will keep it short.

In December, the University was able to forestall cuts to LRC journal subscriptions by redirecting discretionary funds. However, a budget shortfall is likely to occur again in 2012 due to a flat budget and continued increases in subscription costs. In order to try to mitigate this situation, the Faculty Senate has established an *ad hoc* committee to examine alternatives to subscription cuts and potential funding sources and to make informed recommendations to University leadership based on knowledge of funding priorities. This committee is headed by Dr. Eric Marks and will work closely with the library advisory committee.

I will be participating in an off-site with senior University leaders to discuss "USU's strategic management approach" 4-6 January 2012. The draft plan was presented by Mr. Stephen Henske at the December Faculty Senate meeting, and Senate members provided feedback to him. This document has also been distributed to faculty through Department Chairs to solicit feedback. After the leadership off-site, the draft will undergo revision to incorporate this feedback and others. Mr. Henske anticipates posting the strategic plan on the University's website in February.

Reminder of upcoming events:

Faculty Senate meeting: 12 January 2012, 1600-1730, Room A2052

Winter Faculty Assembly: 16 February 2012, 1500, Lecture Hall E

Packard Lecture: 14 and 15 March 2012

Dr. Murray Brennan from Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York will be our honored guest and give the Packard Lecture on 15 May, 1500, Sanford Auditorium. Dr. Brennan is a surgical oncologist with expertise in the treatment of soft tissue sarcomas, endocrine tumors, and pancreatic and stomach cancers. He is equally at home in a laboratory as he is in a surgical suite and has published extensively on work done in the molecular/pathology laboratory to better understand the basic science of difficult cancers. This two-day event will start with a day of clinical activities on 14 March at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), hosted by RADM Stocks and COL Craig Shriver, Interim Director of the WRNMMC Comprehensive Cancer Center, followed by a second day at USU, hosted by President Rice and the Faculty Senate.

Happy New Year!